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Message Text

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44
ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AF-06 ARA-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 EA-09 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 IO-11 L-03 NASA-02

NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-02 PRS-01

OES-05 SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01 /142 W
---------- 068266
R 130905Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5273
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS BUDAPEST 0485

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: MBFR PFOR HU
SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN PRESS CHARGED WITH LEAKING MBFR DATA

1. COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY NEPSZABADSAG REPLIED INDIGNANTLY ON FEB 12 TO ALLEGED CHARGE BY ASSOCIATED PRESS CORRESPONDENT IN VIENNA THAT HUNGARIAN PRESS INTENTIONALLY DISCLOSED CLASSIFIED CONFERENCE DATA ON NATO'S MOST RECENT MBFR PROPOSAL.

2. NEPSZABADSAG NOTED THAT AP VIENNA HAD OBJECTED TO INCLUSION OF INFORMATION ON MISSILES CAPABLE OF CARRYING NUCLEAR WARHEADS IN ITS FEB 11 ARTICLE ON STATE OF MBFR TALKS (FBIS 121035Z FEB 76). "NATO SPOKESMAN" VIENNA REPORTEDLY SAID THAT INFORMATION DISCLOSURES BY WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES WOULD BE "SERIOUS VIOLATION OF CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF TALKS".

3. NEPSZABADSAG REJOINED THAT SAME INFORMATION HAD ALREADY APPEARED IN WESTERN PRESS AND THEN CITED DEC 22 FRANKFURTER
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ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG ARTICLE WHICH AS OBVIOUSLY

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BASED ON MATERIAL FROM "NON-SOCIALIST SOURCES".
FINALLY, HUNGARIAN READERS ARE REMINDED THAT HELSINKI
DOCUMENT CONTAINED SOME REMARKABLE SENTENCES ON THE
NEED FOR THE PRESS TO GIVE OUT OBJECTIVE INFORMATION.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY CANNOT CONFIRM WHETHER AP VIENNA
OR "NATO SPOKESMAN" DID CRITICIZE NEPSZABADSAG FEB 11
ARTICLE. IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT NEPSZABADSAG PUBLISHED
NOTHING MORE THAN HAD ALREADY APPEARED IN PARIS HERALD
TRIBUNE. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS A NOVEL EXPERIENCE TO
OBSERVE THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE HUNGARIAN COMMUNIST
PARTY LEADERSHIP CITING CSCE OBLIGATIONS AND CALLING
FOR FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION.

4. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING FROM VIENNA
ANY BACKGROUND INFO ON THIS CURIOUS AND AMUSING
EPISODE.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Remarks:
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